



Approved Minutes
Historic Preservation Board Retreat

Date: May 5, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: 57 E. First Street, Lower Level Council Chambers

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Jim Taylor, Chair Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair Annalisa Alvrus, Ph.D. Janice Gennevois Dane Astle Louise Swann	Laura Schaffer-Metcalf, Ed.D.	John Wesley	Sandra Andrews Christine Close Barbara Bingham

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

2. Approval of the April 25, 2015 minutes

Chair Taylor noted he would like to make an addition to the wording in one part of the minutes. Under item 3. d., last bullet point, between the words "Councilmember" and "and", add the words "to solicit support for historic preservation in Mesa."

First Motion made by Board member Astle to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Board member Alvrus.

Motion carried 6-0 (Board member Schaffer-Metcalf absent).

3. Review and discuss status of the Westside Clark National Historic District, including status of efforts to create a local historic district – Sandra Andrews

Chair Taylor welcomed Ms. Andrews. Ms. Andrews introduced herself and Christine Close, another Westside Clark resident who helped establish the national district and is now working as part of a committee to help obtain the local designation. Ms. Andrews provided the Board with an overview of the neighborhood and the efforts they have been going through to obtain support for the local district.

Ms. Andrews informed the Board that there is a lot of support for the local district, but some of the neighbors have questions about what the impacts will be. She asked what additional protection will come to the neighborhood by having the local designation.

Chair Taylor responded that studies have shown that having the local historic designation provides a lot of additional protection because with this designation the city has teeth to ensure properties are maintained consistent with the historic character. Staff member Wesley confirmed this stating that with the local designation his office has to review and approve any exterior modifications to buildings in the area. This does not guarantee that people will properly maintain a home, they could still let it deteriorate, but the presence of the district helps encourage appropriate maintenance. Board member Gennevois recounted her experience with the designation in her neighborhood and that it has resulted in a safer, friendlier, and better maintained neighborhood.

Chair Taylor expressed his support and that of the Board to see them move forward with the process and offered the support of the Board in their efforts.

There was discussion about the process of getting signatures and particularly the requirements for the Prop 207 Waivers. Staff member Wesley stated that with zoning changes the waivers are always required by every property owner. However, there is some thought that they may not be as necessary with the establishment of a historic district. We won't know for sure until we would get to Council with such a request, but it is possible they would be willing to approve a district without having everyone sign this

waiver. In the meantime, it would be good to still try and get 100% of the property owners to sign the waiver.

There was further discussion about methods for involving the neighbors including use of Facebook and Next Door. The Board offered to hold a meeting there in the future.

4. Review and discuss and give direction on student contest options for 2015-2016

a. Student writing contest topic, process, and timeline

Chair Taylor noted that with Board member Schaffer-Metcalf absent we will need to postpone most of this discussion until next month. He did ask if any Board members had ideas for topics. Board member Gennevois suggested a topic that would allow participants to pick a historic building, research that building, and write a story based on that.

b. Student poster contest

Chair Taylor reminded the Board this idea came up at the retreat and that Mr. Wesley was going to check with the Mesa Arts Center about doing this as a joint effort. Mr. Wesley responded that he had discussed with this Cindy Ornstien, Mesa Arts and Cultural Director, and she felt this was not something they were willing to take on at this time. Some options were discussed that were passed back to Board member Schaffer-Metcalf to follow up on with the Mesa Public Schools.

Board member Astle asked whether this was to be an additional contest or if this would alternate with the writing contest. The consensus of the Board was that it would be an additional contest. Board member Gennevois suggested a topic for this could be focused on doing a picture of downtown.

5. Review and discuss 2nd Friday event for Friday, May 8 and plans for 2015-2016

Board members Alvrus and Schaffer-Metcalf will represent the Board at this event with support from Vice-chair Mack-Allred. Board member Alvrus will bring some kind of artifact to display at the table. Board member Gennevois also agreed to bring some of the information and artifacts from her home to display.

The Board agreed they want to continue doing these in the coming year. They will do four and selected September, October, February, and March as the preferred months.

6. Review and discuss holding Board meetings in historic districts or other locations

Chair Taylor reminded the Board members this had come up at the retreat as a way to get out and involve more people in the activities of the Board and make them aware of historic preservation. The Board discussed how many times this should be done in a year. The consensus of the members was to hold three off-site meetings between now and June 2016.

Board member Gennevois introduced Barbara Bingham, a resident of the Evergreen Historic District, to the Board and asked her if she thought residents in her area would be interested in having the Board meet in their area. Ms. Bingham agreed it would be good, but she was not sure where a meeting could be held. She would be willing to serve as a liaison between the neighborhood and city to pass along communication and set up a meeting.

The Board then discussed when and where to do this for the first time. It was agreed to work with the Westside Clark district to try and hold the September meeting in this neighborhood. Mr. Wesley will work with neighborhood representatives to get this set up.

7. Update on 2nd Avenue and Pasadena historic survey

Vice-chair Mack-Allred stated the basic survey work and picture taking is done. The consultant is now starting to complete the individual forms and do the analysis of the area. This project is moving along ahead of schedule and could be completed and ready to submit to SHPO by the end of June.

8. Updates on Museums, Exhibits, Committees and Events related to Historic Preservation

Chair Taylor reminded the Board of the interest in preserving the Main Street neon signs and, in particular the desire to speak with someone from Bill Johnson's about preserving there sign now that the business

had closed. Board member Gennevois provided an update on this sign saying she was driving by and saw a person at the property and stopped to talk to him. He turned out to be the site manager from Bill Johnson's and provided Board member Gennevois with updated contact information and agreed to help further the discussion regarding the future of the sign.

9. Board Member comments, questions, and future agenda items

Chair Taylor and Board member Swan discussed issues with the website and historic property register information. Board member Swan was looking into ways to improve the quality of this site. This will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

10. Adjournment

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

First Motion made by Vice-chair Mack-Allred and seconded by Board member Gennevois.
Motion carried 6-0.

Supporting data is available for public review in the Planning Division,
Municipal Building, 55 N. Center St., Mesa, Arizona 85201

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Para asistencia en Español, llamar (480) 644-5597.